

# Linking Verbs

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A **linking verb** connects the subject to a word or word group that identifies or describes the subject. The most commonly used linking verbs are the forms of the verb *be*. Other frequently used linking verbs are *appear, become, remain, seem, turn, smell, taste, feel, look, and sound*.

- EXAMPLES**
- Tyler ~~is~~ my best friend. [The verb *is* connects the subject *Tyler* to the noun *friend*, which identifies Tyler.]
- The ice-covered branches **seem** fragile and glasslike. [The verb *seem* connects the subject *branches* to the adjectives *fragile* and *glasslike*, which describe the branches.]

**EXERCISE** In each of the following sentences, draw one line under the linking verb and two lines under the words that the verb connects.

**Example** 1. This yogurt smells sour.

1. Mother felt ill this morning.
2. Shirley is the secretary and the treasurer of the class.
3. The bread on the counter smelled delicious.
4. Connie grew bored and restless toward the end of the movie.
5. Affie seemed confused by the directions that you gave him.
6. Are we still friends?
7. The new student looks familiar to me.
8. Are all deserts hot and dry?
9. The scout leader was proud of her troop.
10. What is the problem?
11. During this time of year, the weather often becomes stormy in the late afternoon.
12. My voice sounds hoarse from all that cheering at the game.
13. The salesperson seemed annoyed by the shoppers who crowded the store.
14. The captain of the ship remained calm and optimistic.
15. This fabric turned white from exposure to the sun.
16. Do you know whether the library is open on Saturdays?
17. The lights grew dimmer in the theater.
18. The tourists were curious about the mysterious cave.
19. A few of the tomatoes on the vines are already ripe.
20. I absolutely have to say that I think the costume for my character in the play looks ridiculous!

Answer Keys:

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